



THE  
ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY  
IS NOW PREPARED TO SELL  
OVER TWO MILLIONS OF ACRES  
OF SELECTED  
PRAIRIE, FARM AND WOOD LANDS!

In Tracts of Forty Acres or Upwards, to suit Purchasers,  
ON LONG CREDITS AND AT LOW RATES OF INTEREST.

They were granted by the Government, to encourage the building of this Railroad, which runs from the extreme North to the extreme South of the State of Illinois. It passes from end to end, through the richest and most fertile Prairies of the State, dotted here and there with magnificent Oak Groves. The recent opening of nearly six hundred miles of this Railroad, throws open the lands for cultivation; they are scattered from one to 15 miles in width, on each side of it, throughout its entire length.

The soil is a dark, rich mold, from one to five feet in depth, is gently rolling, and peculiarly fitted for grazing cattle and sheep, or the cultivation of wheat, Indian corn, etc.

The first crop of Indian corn, planted on the newly broken Prairie, usually pays the cost of plowing, and sometimes fencing. Wheat sown on newly tamed soil is sure to yield very large profits. One man with a plow and two yoke of oxen will break one and a half to two acres per day. Contracts can be made for breaking, ready for corn or wheat, at \$2 to \$2.50 per acre. By judicious management, farms may be broken and fenced the first, and under a high state of cultivation the second year.

The larger yield on the cheap lands of Illinois, over the high-priced lands in the Eastern and Middle States, is known to be much more than sufficient to pay the difference of transportation to the eastern market. The rapid increase and growth of flourishing towns along the line of this road afford a growing home demand for farm produce.

Coal and wood is delivered along the road at different points, from \$1.50 to \$4 the cord or ton.

Parties having in view Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, or Minnesota, for their future homes, should take into consideration that the country west of the Mississippi is destitute of Railroads. That the conveniences of transporting grain and produce from farms on the line of the Illinois Central Railroad, direct to the great Eastern Markets, is sufficient of itself to repay the investment at from \$10 to \$15 per acre higher than in government lands in Iowa. In other words, that it costs so much more to get produce from the interior of the country west of the Mississippi to the Eastern Market, that the farmer will find it much more profitable to locate on the line of this Railroad.

### PRICE AND TERMS OF PAYMENT.

The price will vary from \$5 to \$25, according to location, quality, etc. Contracts for deeds may be made during the year 1855, stipulating the purchase money to be paid in five annual installments. The first to become due in two years from date of contract, the others annually thereafter. The last payment will become due at the end of the sixth year from date of contract. By the 22d Section of the act of the Legislature, approved 10th of February, 1851, these lands are free from taxation until they are paid for, and a deed of conveyance granted to the purchaser.

### INTEREST WILL BE CHARGED AT ONLY TWO PER CENT. PER ANNUM.

As a security for the performance of the contract, the first two years' interest must be paid in advance, but it must be understood that one-tenth of the land purchased shall yearly be brought under cultivation. Longer credits, at six per cent. per annum, may be negotiated by special application.

### The Great Advantage of Buying on a Long Credit.

Your Cash can be used to the largest profit in making improvements! For instance: It will cost to break up and plant a crop of sod corn, about \$5 per acre; it should bring from \$8 to \$8 per acre. It will cost to break up and plant a crop of wheat, about \$5 per acre; the yield should be from 15 to 25 bushels to the acre. Your money is thus more than doubled the first year, if you use it in making improvements, as above stated, instead of paying down for the land.

It is believed that the price, long credit, and low rate of interest charged for these lands, will enable a man with a few hundred dollars in cash, and ordinary industry, to make himself independent before all the purchase money becomes due. In the meantime the rapid settlement of the country will probably have increased their value four or five fold. When required, an experienced person will accompany applicants, to give information and aid in selecting lands.

Large Plate showing the precise location of the lands throughout the State, may be seen at the Office. Small pocket Plates as a guide to any part of the Company's Lands, and Pamphlets containing interesting information, accompanied by numerous Letters from respectable Farmers throughout the State, may be had on application at the Office.

Office of the Company, No. 52 Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

**CHARLES M. DU PUY, Jr.,**

Land Agent Ill. Cent. R. R. Co.

For Interesting Letters from Illinois Farmers, see following Pages.







My whole expense of producing the same, was:	
Fencing, say.....	\$200 00
Breaking 40 acres of land.....	100 00
Wheat for seeding, \$30—sowing same, \$15...	65 00
Harvesting, say.....	75 00
Threshing, say.....	60 00

And now, as the said 40 acres of land are fenced and broke up, and in fine condition for cultivation, I can readily sell the land for \$35 per acre cash, but I should decline selling if offered thirty dollars per acre.

I make the aforesaid statement for the information of all persons who contemplate coming to this State, that they may know the agricultural advantages of Illinois. All of which is respectfully submitted.

Very Respectfully, Yours, &c.  
JOHN LINDLEY, Jr.  
We, the undersigned, Brown & Mayers, dealers in grain and agricultural products at Bloomington, Illinois, having purchased of Mr. John Lindley, Jr., the wheat as he himself stated in his letter, do certify that of our own knowledge we know the statements by him made in his letter are true in substance and in fact. Witness our hands at Bloomington, Ill., this 5th June, 1855.  
JOHN MAYERS,

BLOOMINGTON, ILL., June 5, 1855.  
 CHAS. M. DU PUY, JR., Agent Ill. Central R.R. Lands  
 Chicago, Ill.

DEAR SIR:—Enclosed please find statement of the production of first and second crop wheat grown upon 40 acres prairie land sold by the Ill. Cent. R. R. Co. to John Lindley, Jr., of McLean Co., Illinois, attached to which is the certificate of Messrs. Meyers & Brown, the buyers of this place. The statement of Mr. Lindley is entirely correct, and he further informs me that the production of wheat was much greater than shown by him in his statement, for the reason that much was lost by bad harvesting and negligent threshing. Very respectfully, &c.,

Letter from J. Ambrose Wight, Esq.  
Editor of the Prairie Farmer.

CHAS M DE PUR, Esq.—*Dear Sir:* At your request I would state that from an acquaintance with Illinois lands and Illinois farmers, of 18 years, 12 of which I have been engaged as editor of the *Prairie Farmer*, I am prepared to give the following as the rate of produce which may be had per acre with ordinary culture:

Winter wheat.....	15 to 25 bushels
Spring wheat.....	10 to 20 do
Indian corn.....	40 to 70 do
Oats.....	20 to 30 do
Potatoes.....	100 to 200 do
Grass, timothy and clover 1½ to 3 tons.	

'Ordinary culture' or prairie lands is not what is meant by the term in the Eastern or Middle States. It means here, no culture, and commonly *but once*, or at best twice a year. The soil is perfectly smooth land, with long furrows and no stones. The farmer sows, with two acres per day is no hard job for one team. It is often but very poor culture, with shallow plowing, and without attention to weeds.

I have grown crops not infrequently far greater than these, with but little variation in their treatment; say 40 to 50 bushels of winter wheat, 60 to 80 tons, 300 of potatoes, and 100 of Indian corn. "Good culture," which means rotation, deep plowing, farms well stocked, and some manure, applied at intervals of from three to five years, would, in good seasons, very often approach these figures.

Yours, truly,  
J. AMBROSE WHEELER.

## The Advantages of the Illinois Central R. R. Land over other Lands.

The Illinois Central Railroad Company are replying fittingly to our State with the right kind of eastern, more with comparative small capital, and with an enormous energy and determination that will speedily drive wealth from the soil. What a new State has most to fear is the locking up its resources by capitalists. These parties generally secure the best lands, and keep it a dead weight upon every industrious settler in the neighborhood, till their sweat and toil have improved the district, and then, without spending one cent towards the general improvement, realize perhaps five times the original cost of the land. The settler in buying these lands has no such

difficultly to contend with. The whole amount of land is open for sale, and every buyer is compelled by agreement to cultivate at least half before he receives his deed. Every farmer will soon be surrounded by men as industrious and improving as himself.

But the great benefit which this company offers is the long credit on which their lands are sold, and the small rate of interest charged. On receiving a contract, the buyer is allowed to pay only two years interest at the two per cent. rate per year on the purchase money at the end of which time he pays one fifth per year till the whole be paid, thus giving him six years to pay for his land—

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